





Stands with Humboldt

We, the Board Members and Employees of the Board of Compensation, Creeco and its Subsidiaries, stand with you during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the Humboldt Broncos, their teammates, the organization, the town and the province.













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Photo by Korey Saganash





The 2018 **Appropriation Award**

by Dan Isaac



ndian Horse, by the late Richard Wagamese, is possibly one of the most important books ever penned by an Indigenous author. It's a lament on the life of Saul Indian Horse, a residential school survivor and promising NHL prospect who threw away his gift for the game for a life of drinking.

It's a tragic tale, but there's also beauty and redemption.

Richard always believed there was healing to be had in storytelling. He also looked upon his craft as ceremony. And like his characters, Richard, used the ceremony of storytelling to heal his past trauma.

He told Indigenous stories from an Indigenous perspective but his work transcended race. I remember discussing the book with a non-Indigenous friend who said it helped him heal as a victim of sexual abuse.

In 2013, Indian Horse was a finalist for CBC's Canada Reads. When I heard it was going to become a movie, I was hopeful - but long before its national release April 13, I knew I wouldn't be a movie like 12 Years a Slave (2013) me. buying a ticket.

Over the summer I watched an extended trailer for the Indian Horse film that had the cinematic grace of a PSA. The dialogue was clunky. The whole scene seemed unauthentic, forced. But beyond the technical awkwardness, there were systemic issues

Over the fall, Indigenous friends gave early reviews from the festival circuit. One saw a screening at the Vancouver International Film Festival in September and said the experience

was like being forced to sit through 100 minutes of trauma porn.

Another acquaintance saw the film at the Toronto International Film Festival and was disappointed when, during the question period, the director spoke over the family of the boy whose braids were actually cut off during the filming of a particular scene.

The director isn't Indigenous, neither is the screenwriter. Sure, there were plenty of Indigenous actors who worked on the film, but with the exception of Paul Devonshire (who was brought on late in the production), not a single Indigenous person worked behind the camera in a creative role.

No Canadian Indigenous director was even contacted to helm the picture.

Why?

"We're not lacking in talent or ability," Jesse Wente, head of the newly established Indigenous Screen Office, told the CBC. "We're lacking in oppor-

Could you imagine a world in which

could have been made without a Black writer or director or producer? What about Schindler's List without a lewish director or producers? So why Indian Horse in 2018?

It's already picked up several awards on the film-fest circuit, but it might as well be the white girl wearing a headdress at the Coachella music festival. It's the epitome of appropriation: an Indigenous story used to further the careers of non-Indigenous creatives.

The only difference is that they had permission, this time, from the author. Before he passed away in March 2017, Richard Wagamese hand-picked the production team. His reason for going with non-Indigenous creators was that he wanted the movie to be seen by as wide an audience as possible.

Don't get me wrong, I'm happy the story of Indian Horse is being told. I hope theatres are filled with people who need to see this movie. None of those audiences, however, will include



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From canvas to clothes

How a renowned Cree artist is making her art and designs prêt-à-porter

by Amy German

hapmagoostui's Natasia Mukash is known as a talented painter and visual artist. Now she is taking her traditionally inspired work in a new direction. She's making her artwork wearable by designing textiles and printing her designs onto premade garments.

"I went to LaSalle College (in Montreal) and studied Fashion Design, with a concentration in costume design because I wanted to work in theatre. After graduating, I took a break from my artwork and thought that I would give designing a shot and see how it goes. It was during this time, I took a course in textiles and I learned how to make patterns and discovered that I was good at it," said Mukash.

Her transition from art to textiles didn't happen overnight; it is something she worked on over the last five years. After she graduated from LaSalle she experienced a "great deal of life" which included burnout, surgery and childbirth - before returning to her artistic calling.

"It was something that I dreamed of doing since childhood. It's funny, the image I always had in my head was of Coco Chanel with her patterns outlined with white chalk. This is what I wanted to do – create things for people to wear."

In moving back to Whapmagoostui, Mukash hoped that her desire to design and be creative with fabric and patterns would return. It took some time, but Mukash is now producing designs that are transposed onto garments and making prints on synthetic fabrics that can be purchased by the metre.

After getting her project off the ground, the next stop was finding a

company that prints textile designs. But partnering with a company that allowed the artist to make a decent profit and to have good quality control proved difficult. However, thanks to a suggestion made on Instagram, Mukash found the company she is now working with. Oddly enough, a person she already knew owns it.

"What's funny is that I knew him because he used to make t-shirts and caps for CerAmony [her husband's band]. When I looked at his website,

I realized I could make leggings and other clothing. Then I saw a section that stated, 'Create your own fabric' and I was like 'What?"

That's Mukash had always dreamed of.

These days, Mukash has her own page on the Art of Where website, where she sells her garments, including leggings, dresses, shirts, scarves and shawls as well as textiles. She hopes to add a few more items but slow internet speeds in Whapmagoostui

are an obstacle. Soon she'd like to find a company to make her prints in bulk so they can be sold at the local store.

For the moment, Mukash has only been able to get two different kinds of fabric to print her designs on. But, she is hopeful that other fabrics, like cotton, become more available in the future because her company is expand-

To see her goods, check out: artofwhere.com/artists/nanatasis



If you are an Indigenous woman of Eevou Istchee and you feel that you or anyone you know is in danger, we are here to help you!

Piipiichauu Uchistuun | Robin's Nest | Women's Shelter



For women and children of Eevou Istchee suffering from domestic violence

Toll Free Crisis Line Open 24/7 1-855-753-2094

www.creehealth.org/services/womens-shelters-robins-nest



Chisasibi Beavers end impressive season with **run** to Inter-regionals final

oung Cree hockey players took centre stage last month as the Chisasibi Beavers Atom A squad made the long trip to Laval to compete in the 2018 Quebec Inter-regional championship tournament.

Comprised of many of the best 9- and 10-year-old hockey players in Eeyou Istchee, the Beavers enjoyed a dream season that started with a perfect 7-0 run in James Bay Minor Hockey League action, during which they outgunned opponents by an impressive 42-21

That success set the stage for the Beavers' impressive performance at the Coupe Créations Dynamiques in mid-March, which started with a crushing 13-2 win over Rouyn-Noranda, and climaxed with an equally impressive 9-0 beating of Amos in the tournament final, earning the club a berth in the 2018 Inter-regionals.

While many hockey observers had tempered expectations of what the Beavers could achieve this season, the club's dominance came as no surprise to coach Simeon Kitty.

"This could be one of the best teams I have ever coached," said Kitty in conversation with the Nation.

With 20 years behind the bench of minor and senior hockey teams, Kitty has helped many young Cree players develop their skills on the ice, and has been the architect of multiple runs to the Interregional finals. That experience, along with the hard work of assistant coaches lames Lameboy and Kyle Sam, has been key to the Beavers' strong play this season.

After making the long journey from Chisasibi to Laval, the Beavers had little time to rest before opening their Inter-regionals schedule against the Outaouais lets on April 5. The long ride had no apparent effect of





Kitty's young charges as they stormed to a 9-2 rout of the lets.

The Beavers also flaunted their finely tuned defense in a pair of subsequent shutout wins, starting with a 5-0 blanking of the Bécancour Riverains, and followed by a 6-0 thrashing of the march to the Interregional finals, the Deux-Montagnes Panthers that earned the squad a berth in the tournament verged on Val-d'Or for the 26th Annual semi-final.

The club took care of business with a 3-1 victory over the Estrie Voltigeurs ment featured 104 teams playing in 14 in that final four matchup, but had little left in the tank for the final, falling to the Napierville Mustangs by 6-1 score.

"The kids were tired by the time they reached the final. They had played a lot of hockey, and we let them spend a lot of time in the swimming pool at the hotel in Laval," Kitty said with a win over the Wemindji Paint Hills to laugh.

But there was no disappointment among the young Beavers as their championship dream came to an end.

"Kids need to be kids, and have fun, and we did that this season," said Kitty. "More importantly, a lot of credit has to be given to the parents and families

of these kids, who worked so hard to build a team, and made a lot of sacrifices. Teams like this cannot be successful unless the parents are committed to supporting them."

While the Beavers made their rest of the Cree hockey world con-Cree Minor Hockey Tournament.

This year's edition of the tournacategories, ranging from Pre Novice to Midget Girls and Midget Hockey Competitive.

The Manawan Kings stumbled out of the gate with a 5-4 loss to Waskaganish before rebounding with five straight victories, capped by a 4-3 claim the Midget Hockey Competitive

A pair of Manawan skaters, Jerrycko Flamand and Graham Moar, led all Midget Competitive scorers with eight and seven points, respectively. Wemindji's Felix Stephen and Mathias Weische of Waskaganish, who each in the final.

tallied six points at this year's tournament, closely followed.

In Midget Girls action, Whapmagoostui led the way in preliminary play with three straight victories, including a dominating 13-1 win over Mistissini, but had nothing left in the tank in their final matchup with Kitigan Zibi, which romped to a 7-0 victory to take home the championship banner.

Waswanipi and Rapid Lake both opened Bantam Hockey Competitive action with two victories each, but neither club could handle Waskaganish in the knockout round, as they powered to a 6-5 win over Rapid Lake, followed by a narrow 4-3 edging of Waswanipi to emerge as Bantam champions.

Waskaganish also impressed in Pee Wee Hockey Competitive, powering to four straight wins to earn a berth in the category final, but once again a squad from outside Eeyou Istchee emerged triumphant, with the Lac Simon Warriors eliminating Waskaganish by a slim 5-4 margin before falling to the Moose Factory Scrappers by a 4-3 tally



Honouring the **Broncos**

Schools across Eeyou Istchee participated in National Jersey Day, April 12, honouring the Victims of the Tragic Bus Crash in Saskatchewan that claimed the lives of 16 members of the Junior Hockey Team, the Humboldt Broncos. The photo on the left is an aerial shot of over 150 students, staff members and partners of the Raibow Elementary School in Waswanipi.

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We wish you all a good harvest, play it safe and **enjoy** the spring goose hunt.

- Rusty Cheezo, Chairman/President





CREECO is the holding company for:

Niskamoon Corporation is pleased to announce the appointment of three new board members by

the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Mr. William MacLeod Cree Nation of Mistissini Mrs. Emily Whiskeychan Cree Nation of Eastmain

Mr. George Bobbish Cree Nation of Chisasibi

CREECO O DUMAS SENOU

Existing board members include Mr. Matthew Wapachee from the Cree Nation of Nemaska, and three members from Hydro-Québec - Mr. Mathieu Boucher, Mr. Réal Courcelles, and Mr. Daniel Lauzon.

Mr. William MacLeod was designated as the Niskamoon Chairperson and Mr. Mathieu Boucher was selected as the Niskamoon Vice-Chairperson.

Niskamoon Corporation would also like to thank the past Board Members for their significant contributions and guidance during their terms – Mrs. Violet Pachanos, Dr. Matthew Coon Come, Mr. Kenneth Gilpin, and Mr. Paul John Murdoch.





Grand Chief speaks at **UN forum**

rand Chief Abel Bosum addressed the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York April 16-27.

In his speech on the first day of meetings, Bosum stated the need for world governments to work with Indigenous nations to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and said that it's essential that the human rights instrument be incorporated in legal frameworks worldwide.

Bosum also emphasized that Indigenous peoples are intricately connected to the natural systems that keep our planet sustainable.

"We have a profound relationship with our lands, territories and resources," he told the forum. "This relationship is always evolving and it includes political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and spiritual dimensions. We expect states to fulfill their commitments to Indigenous peoples. In particular, sustainable development based on international standards."





Tourism **investment**

Quebec government, Eeyou Istchee Tourism's executive director Robin McGinley and Ungava MNA Jean Boucher announced a \$400,000 investment to help promote tourism in Eeyou Istchee.

More than half the grant will go to extending the contract of a resource person assigned to helping local Crees develop their businesses. The rest will assist entrepreneurs who need

n partnership with the help starting a business, said McGinley.

> "We all know that starting a business in the North is expensive," McGinley told the CBC. "It's important to continue to invest in tourism, because it's really in its infancy."

Some of the funding will be drawn from the Plan Nord, while \$193,000 will come from Quebec and Eeyou Istchee Tourism.

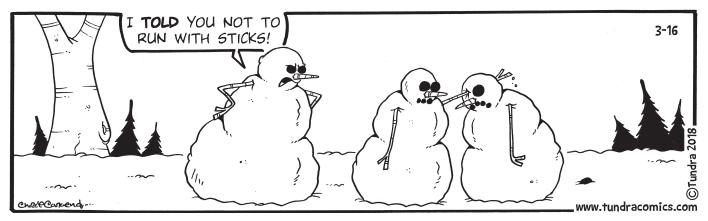
Cree Cultural Institute honoured

he Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute's traveling exhibit, "Footprints: A Walk Through Generations", has been honoured with a Canadian Museums Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions.

Aanischaaukamikw Director Sarah Pash thanked all who worked on the exhibit, which was chosen by the CMA in their Cultural Heritage category.

They included, "Natasia Mukash, Paula Menarick, the core team at Aanischaaukamikw, the Eeyou Istchee tour team that included Tanya Aanischaaukamikw."

Lavrivier, Shirly-Anne Etapp, Rob Imrie, and Maïtée Saganash and the Elders who guide our journey, all of our 10 communities in Eeyou Istchee who participated in consultations - especially the Chisasibi Heritage Centre team, and the Board of Directors of





Owning Health

Celebrating 40 years and planning for the future of the Cree Health Board

by André Simoneau Photos by Korey Saganash

o celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) held its regional general assembly in Waswanipi April 10-12, under the theme "Working Together Towards a Healthy Future".

Key delegates from within the organization, as well as Eeyou Istchee community leaders, were all invited to take part in the three-day event at Waswanipi's spacious Community Health and Fitness Centre, with a view to commemorate the CBHSSIB's long history, while also creating new partnerships and strengthening existing ties.

The event kicked off with a drumming song by Erika Eagle, followed by opening remarks from local Board representative Jonathan Sutherland, Waswanipi Chief Marcel Happyjack, Grand Chief Abel Bosum and CBHSSJB Chairperson Bella Petawabano.

Bosum highlighted the recent adoption by Parliament of Bill C-70, which ensures a more comprehensive Cree governance of land resources as outlined under the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

The CBHSSIB also presented its 2016-2021 Strategic Regional Plan (SRP), whose stated aim is "to achieve Nishiiyuu Miyupimaatisiiun together". Along with continuing efforts to support youth and Elders, the SRP targets chronic ailments such as diabetes, depression and substance abuse.

Executive Director Daniel St-Amour outlined the document's focus areas, which will guide all activities







undertaken by the different branches of the CBHSSIB over the next five years. The priorities contained in the SRP were established at pens to their health." the last General Assembly in April 2016, and Petawabano in the past was that we were stressed the importance of using a Cree voting method as part of the prioritization process.

SRP to be the people's plan," she said. "We wanted the cerns." people to be the ones to say what the priorities are. We did it that way because we believe the communities know best. They know their

people; they know what's happening. So we wanted to give them that ownership, to munities need and want. give them a say in what hap-

"One of the complaints kind of playing Big Brother," echoed St-Amour. "We were saying we wanted to build partnerships, but we "We wanted this latest weren't following through and responding to local con-

> With that spirit of inclusiveness in mind, attendees were invited to participate in so-called "open space" sessions in order to provide the

board with a clearer picture It's all about dialogue, talking of what people in the com-

explained the open-space system: "Our idea was to bring people together who first outlined in the JBNQA. are leaders in the communities, managerial directors in the Cree organizations, and talk about how to work together to improve the lives ry. It's what the Elders have and health of our people. It's been telling us all along: healan opportunity for people to ing comes from the land." discuss and give ideas about what they think, what conhealthier and a stronger one. hope that such programs

together, and contributing."

Overall, the 2016-2021 Organizer Sol Awashish SRP aims to bring more services and facilities back to Eeyou Istchee territory, as

"As Cree people," said Petawabano, "we have to acknowledge the resources we have within our territo-

Former Grand Chief Matthew Mukash spoke tributions they can bring to about the work being done making the Cree Nation a in that regard, and expressed might have a permanent place in the future operations of the CBHSSIB.

with doctors and other professionals is always going to be there," Mukash said. "But we can couple that with a traditional system of healing, and have a system where we can use traditional medicines and practices that our ancestors have always used, along with the current health system that we have."

Part of the land-based healing effort also includes the development of locally-offered traditional tions.

Waapimaausuwin midwife services, in order to increase the number of women giv-"The mainstream system ing birth within their communities, rather than travelling south to urban areas to receive care.

> Furthermore, with a view to continuing the CBHSSIB's mandate as an organization by and for the Cree people, part of the strategy for the upcoming years includes a succession plan specifically tailored to attracting and preserving Cree human resources in key managerial posi-

"The mainstream system with doctors and other professionals is always going to be there, but we can couple that with a traditional system of healing"

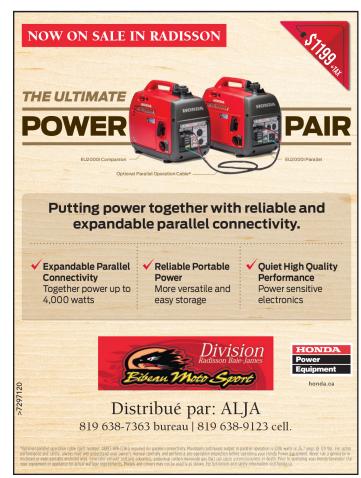
- Matthew Mukash, Former Grand Chief

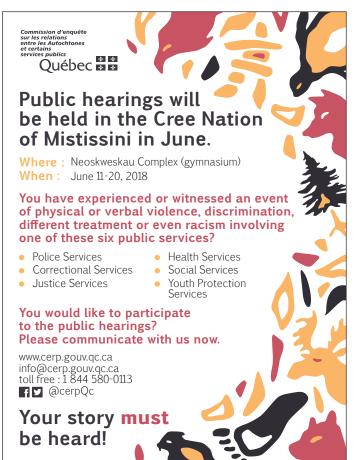
"We wanted the people to be the ones to say what the priorities are. We did it that way because we believe the communities know best"

- Bella Petawabano, CBHSSJB Chairperson













"We wanted to have more Cree managers," said Petawabano. "We wanted to make an investment in the employees that we have in the organization, for the people that want to continue to make a career out of working for the Cree Health Board. And we also wanted to know what people would need in order to do their jobs

To that effect, the CBHSSIB offers resources for employees seeking to obtain qualifications that

would allow upward mobility within the organization. It also gives employees work experience by having them sit in for directors who are on vacation or parental leave.

For Petawabano - who studied to become a social worker at McGill University after having already accumulated many years of experience in the field – cultivating a Native workforce requires communicating with young people about the wide range

of professional opportunities that are available.

"When I was a child I didn't know much about what jobs were available in the health sector because I was 10 years old and I was living with my parents in the bush," she said. "I was literally taken out of the bush and put into residential school at do a lot of capacity building in it: housing, economics, the age of 10. So what did I know about professions? such as nurses, doctors, I knew the Hudson's Bay social workers, psycholomanager, I knew the priest in gists," she noted. the community, I knew the only nurse who was there, ing to coordinate with other living a balanced life."

the teacher, the pilot, and people would refer to the mechanic, and that was it. That was my exposure."

In following years, Petawabano began to see more Cree people in management positions.

areas where we still have to - in the professional fields,

The CBHSSIB is seek-

entities and other levels of government, in order to provide a more holistic approach to health services.

"When we talk about Miyupimaatisiiun," said Awashish, "we are talking "But there are some about all health and social factors that come to effect fiscal health, mental health, spiritual health, emotional health, all factors that lead to people being healthy and

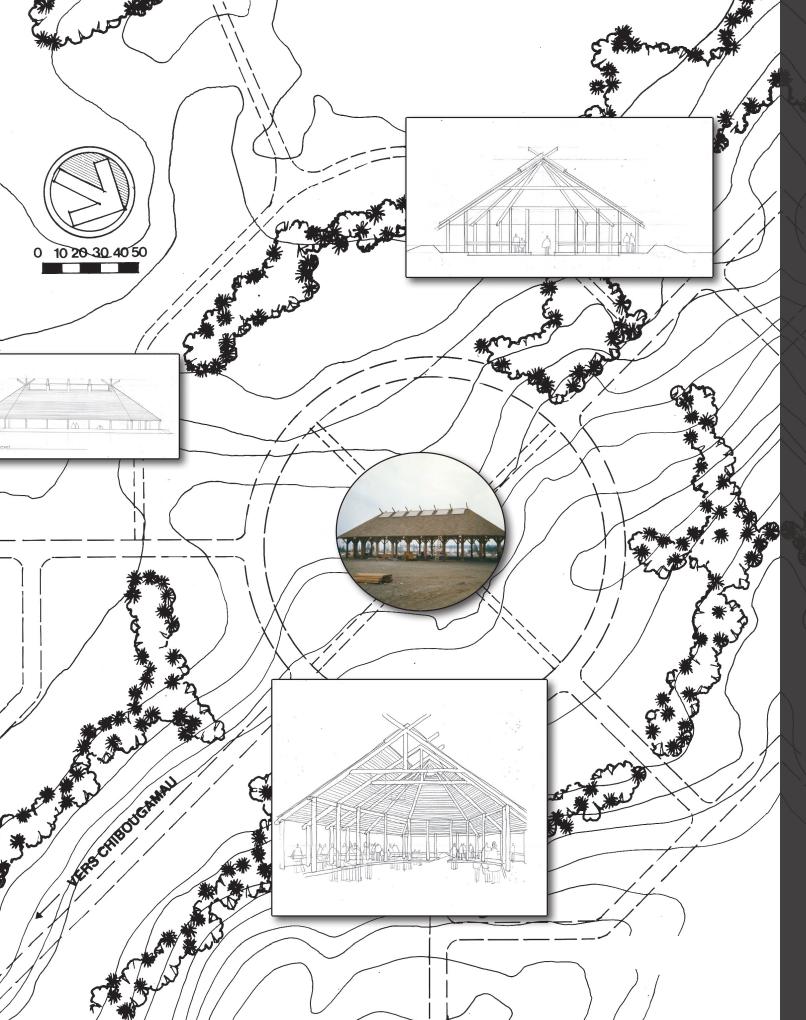




"When we talk about Miyupimaatisiiun, we are talking about all health and social factors that come to effect in it"

- Sol Awashish

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BUILDING ON THE PAST

Honouring the architect of Oujé-Bougoumou's first structure

by Patrick Quinn | Photos provided by EVOQ Architecture

Shaputuan – sometimes spelled sabutan – is a traditional Cree longhouse shelter with a door on each end. One door represents a respect for knowledge passed forward from the Elders. The other symbolizes new kinds of learning taken out into the world, opening up a future that has yet to be written.

When Oujé-Bougoumou's Chief, Abel Bosum, made the call to architectural firm Fournier Kephart in April 1989 to discuss the very first structure of a yet-to-be-built community, it was the traditional Shaputuan that was to be the inspiration. Of course, this structure would be much larger, capable of holding 400 people for ceremonies and serving as a skating rink in winter.

Its construction was central to the vision of the long-awaited village of Oujé-Bougoumou. The village was the crucial element of the First Nation's determination to occupy and govern their traditional territory, after decades of displacement and marginalization by the mining and forestry industries.

With the full participation of the community, the new village was planned with careful consideration for the needs of both present and future generations. It was like having a "clean slate, a clean piece" of paper upon which we were charged with the responsibility to write the first chapter of our community's future," said Abel Bosum, now the Grand Chief of the Crees.

As the village's first founding gesture, the Shaputuan is a powerful traditional symbol of presence on the land. Renowned architect Douglas Cardinal was called on to design the village's street pattern and most important buildings, with key

community-gathering spaces placed in a central circle location.

The circular shape represents a traditional medicine wheel and the Aboriginal spherical concepts of time and history, while symbolically referencing concepts of community healing and growth. In the centre of this circle, at the very heart of the community, is the Shaputuan.

The project's lead architect, Dana Kephart, recently passed away after a year-long battle with cancer. Kephart was originally from Grand Junction, Colorado, an area with a long history of Navajo, Hopi and other First Nations presence. His youth was steeped in his family's interest in these traditions, beginning a lifelong passion for culture and history that led him to a close personal and working relationships with Aboriginal people.

That passion suffused his architectural work, says his daughter, Elza Kephart.

"Dana was obsessed with understanding the needs of his clients and transforming them into well-designed, practical, culturally significant, as well as beautiful buildings," she remembered. "He was very proud of these achievements and never stopped telling his family and friends that the years he spent working with Cree and Inuit communities were the best of his professional life."

Following his university studies in 1969, Kephart spent two years working with a group of young architects in Morocco. He immersed himself in the country's culture and created various housing projects inspired by their materials and practices. With his French wife, he decided to move to Montreal in the early 1970s, finding work at PGL Architectes. That's where he met Alain Fournier.



Dana was obsessed with understanding the needs of his clients and transforming them into well-designed, practical, culturally significant, as well as beautiful buildings

- Elza Kephart

The two shared a common vision regarding their respectful attitude toward working with communities, and launched their own firm, Fournier-Kephart, in 1981. Work began in 1983 for their first in a long series of projects with Cree and Inuit communities – the air terminal in Igaluit, Nunavut, the now-iconic structure that Kephart playfully called the "yellow submarine".

"Now it's in Inuit children's books as representing an Arctic structure, so it was dead on as far as integrating into the culture," Fournier told the Nation. "That's always been a primary concern of ours, integrating the architecture into the culture, the communities that we're working with."

As consultations with Oujé-Bougoumou began, Kephart passionately researched Cree culture. He was profoundly interested in Cree spirituality and fascinated by the ingenuity of their traditional structures, tools and materials. "To him, it wasn't a business," said Fournier. "He was very passionate about what he was doing, being personally involved. That's how he struck up friendships."

As he worked to translate the community's vision into an architectural form, Kephart started lifelong friendships with Abel Kitchen, Jack Blacksmith and Robert Ottereyes. The Shaputuan was designed to go up quickly, with a series of posts, trusses and pre-fabricated sections that were easily assembled. It was finished by August 1989, four months after the initial call to Fournier-Kephart.

The summer of 1989 was historic. After several years of protracted negotiations with the Quebec government, Oujé-Bougoumou took drastic actions to ensure their concerns were taken seriously. The community declared jurisdiction over the territory, blockaded the access road to the village, and established their own court that convicted both provincial and federal governments of breaching their fiduciary obligation to Oujé-Bougoumou.

In September, an agreement with Quebec was finally signed during a ceremony in the new Shaputuan. Quebec would contribute financially toward the village's construction while acknowledging certain local jurisdiction over the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree traditional territory. It also amended the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement to include Oujé-Bougoumou as a full-fledged community of Eeyou Istchee.

In the following years, the village sprung up quickly, preserving the harmonious nature of the Cree traditional way of life in the context of contemporary facilities and institutions. The rooflines of subsequent buildings were like mirror images of the Shaputuan.

Cultural sensitivity and community consultation informed the architectural work of both Kephart and Cardinal. Cardinal had sat in a traditional dwelling during the early visualization sessions and recalled "a feeling of being rooted, of being sheltered, of being in harmony with nature and with the natural environment."

The resulting community is an international example of sustainable development, innovative design and decolonization of the architectural process. It was named a model community by the United Nations in 1995.

For Kephart and Fournier, the project led to further involvement with First Nations and Inuit communities. They worked on several projects in Waswanipi and recently finished work on a program for a hospital in Chisasibi. In Nunavik, the firm designed the Kuujjuag Forum, an arena and community centre, as well as various air terminals.

Although Kephart moved on to other interests in 1995, he returned to the office five years ago to help work on the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay. Fournier and Kephart won an architectural competition to design the world-class building, which should be occupied within a few months.

"I've carried on with Dana's work and the way he looked at things," Fournier explained. "Sometimes architects are there to give shape to the community's vision. I was in Oujé about a month and a half ago, and was guite surprised to see how [the Shaputuan] has become an icon there, how they were actually interested in learning about the history of the building."

It was a particularly emotional trip for Fournier because his former partner had passed away not long before. In his final years, Kephart had turned his attention to artistic pursuits and concern about how climate change is affecting Native communities.

During his illness, Fournier added, Kephart would often gaze at a portrait of Chief Seattle on his bedside table, under which was written: "The earth doesn't belong to man. Man belongs to the earth."





The Home Run

Mushing through history and tough weather

by Nick Wapachee Photos by Nanuk Operations - Caleb Ross

ustin Allen, a 34-year-old musher, says wolves are challenging his dog sledding journey home to Saint John, New Brunswick.

"I didn't have as much sleep as I would have liked," he said, "I would have to stay outside with my dogs to protect them from the dangers."

Allen started his expedition this year at Churchill, Manitoba. That's where he fell in love with dog mushing after moving there six years ago. He hopes to be home with his dogs by May.

His 12 dogs love pulling him, either on a sled when there's sufficient snow or on an ATV four-wheeler for the roads.

While they were mushing, Allen said some challenges included a constant battle with a cold, swimming in six feet of snow and finances for dog food.

"We're just getting used to it," he said. "It's becoming life a little bit, you know?"



Allen knew he was passing through Indigenous traditional territories and wanted to share his experiences with those communities.

"I'm giving back to the First Nation people, acknowledging the stem of their culture with dog teams and doing presentations in schools," he said.

He has about 20 destinations on his list, which included Attawapiskat First

Nation, Moosonee and the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

> "We chose to go to Nemaska, based on the weather conditions," Allen said. "It fit a little better in our whole plan."

> The weather in April has been inconsistent in eastern Canada, where high winds, ice storms and blizzards could potentially impact the journey.

> "We're going to try to chase the minus temperatures for a little longer," Allen said. "We may not end up in some of those communities."

> On his Facebook page, Boss Dog Expeditions, Allen wrote he had to make a hard decision and put his dogs on his truck because of large, sharp boulders on the Route du Nord to Chibougamau.

> "We went through almost every bootie we had, and they wouldn't last even half an hour of running," Allen wrote on Facebook.



He put boots on the dogs to protect their feet, and reflective jackets on them so the heat from the sun bounces away from them to keep the dogs cool while running.

"Thankfully, the dogs' feet are fine. We didn't overdo it," he wrote on Facebook.

Allen is halfway through his journey and hopes to reach New Brunswick soon.

"We're going to settle in New Brunswick once we're finished," he said, "open a dog sledding business there, would love to have people come visit us, learn about the dogs, go for rides."

Allen said he wants to open up a club for dog owners and offer free membership to his kennel, where they can practice mushing and give dog owners a place to socialize with other dogs.



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- · Were convicted of a criminal offence
- Have completed all the requirements of your sentence and probation
- You have completed the 5 or 10 year waiting period, depending on the nature of the offence

If you are a Cree beneficiary, the Cree Nation Government (CNG) can help you to fill out the record suspension application and if you qualify for financial assistance, the CNG may pay the costs associated with the application.

Need Help on How to Apply?

Contact your Local Community Reintegration Officer:

Chisasibi: 819-855-2120 Eastmain: 819-977-2400 418-923-2661 Mistissini: 819-673-2400 Nemaska: Ouje-bougoumou: 418-745-2260 Waskaganish: 819-895-2126 Waswanipi: 819-753-2770 819-978-3300 Wemindji: 819-929-3796 Whapmagoostui:

If you have any additional questions or need more information, please contact the Correctional Services Regional Office in Val-d'Or at 819-874-2600 or by email at justice.valdor@cngov.ca

www.creejustice.ca



APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR INDIVIDUALS

DEADLINE: JUNE 8, 2018 5:00 p.m. EST Applications are currently available online at www.nibtrust.ca.

The NIB Trust Fund is accepting applications from First Nation and Métis individuals to support education programs aimed at healing, reconciliation and knowledge building.

All First Nations and Métis citizens over the age of 18 and with a valid social insurance number are eligible for funding through a competitive application process. Preference will be given to former students of residential schools and their family members.

The NIB Trust Fund allocates funds in accordance with the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement of 2007 - the largest settlement agreement in Canadian history which provided compensation to survivors for their experiences at residential school. The NIB Trust Fund offers a new opportunity separate from Indian residential schools compensation packages. For more information please contact the National Indian

Brotherhood Trust Fund directly.

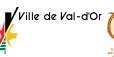
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Em giving back to the First Nation people, acknowledging the stem of their culture with dog teams and doing presentations in schools

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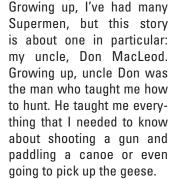


Goose Break hope

by Patrick W. Forward

The Nation congratulates the 2018 Goose Call contest winner

e all have people who we see as our own personal Superman.



This story starts a little before Goose Break 2017. Earlier, in 2016, my Aunt Judy had passed away. It was a difficult year, which was

would be able to beat the cancer and continue on with his life. Watching uncle Don go through treatment wasn't easy, but we all supported him and tried to keep his hopes alive.

One of the most difficult things for my uncle was knowing Goose Break was rounding the corner and he was unsure if he would be able to hunt. Then one day as the geese were flying, I received a text saying that uncle Don was coming down

as he sat down in a chair he had sat in every year before. This was significant and meant the world to everybody who was sitting in the

What made this day even more special was as if something was written in the stars, as sure as the sun would rise, a flock of geese flew towards the opening of the water hole. As the geese landed on the lake and the hunters got ready to shoot, all the hunters waited on one



Don MacLeod sits in his blind

life in his eyes that reminded me of a time when a child kills their first goose. The look of excitement washed over his face, a look of pride, a look that I will never forget because my Superman - despite all of his difficulties and challenges - had not only made it down to the blind he sat in every year, but managed to raise his gun and shoot despite all of the pain I'm sure he was feeling.

This is one of my most memorable Goose Breaks because I wasn't sure if my uncle would make it down to the blinds that year and the thought of not having him hunt with me broke my heart. I believe that trip down to the blind meant more to him than we will ever realize, it meant

Now as we prepare for Goose Break 2018, I'm glad to say that his cancer has gone into remission and I will have my hunting partner with me for many many more to years to come.

I realize that there was life in his eyes that reminded me of a time when a child kills his first goose

followed by an even more difficult year. Not even a full year after the passing of my Aunt Judy, uncle Don developed a cancerous tumour around his spine. This was devastating on many levels but we were hopeful that he

to the blinds. Quickly the nephews gathered together to help him down to his blind and carry his gun down for him. Although we knew that his journey down was hard, there was a ray of hope that seemed to gleam in his eyes

specific person, my uncle Don. As he raised his shotgun to aim at the geese we heard a loud bang-bang-bang! And the shooting began.

As I turned to look at the expression on uncle Don's face I realized that there was



Taapwaauchaayimiisu Believe In Yourself

OUR PROGRAM

Taapwaauyimiisu (Believe in youself) program is a resource available for the schools in the three Cree communities, where the pilot project is currently being launched. We offer support to the students' ages 12 to 17 years old who, for various reasons, are temporarily suspended from 3 to 5 days from school.

The expression "Believe in yourself" is dear to our program as we want to send a strong message of empowerment and self-worth to our youth.

OUR SERVICE SITES

Taapwaauchaayimiisu program in Mistissini has officially moved in their new service site at the Family Resource Centre (Old Youth Centre). Thank you, Cree Nation of Mistissini, for your collaboration in providing space for our youth.

We would also like to thank everyone that attended our open houses in Waskaganish and Chisasibi.

Should you require more information, please contact the coordinator.

Tel: **(819) 527-0407** E-mail: **Byourself@cngov.ca**









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The **NHL Playoffs** Part 1



oke up this morning realizing that once again, most Canadian teams are missing in this year's NHL playoffs. Then I remembered that Les Habitants were among the missing teams. I smiled, but I will have no further comment.

Once again, we are in the midst of the longest, hardest-hitting, bone-crunching, tape-to-tape, bloodon-the-ice, bench-clearing, top-shelfsniping-where-mama-hides-the-cookies hockey tournament in the world. It's the best two months of ice action we can witness. Ladies and gentlemen, the playoffs are among us. Everyone has their hockey pools sent in and is keeping track of every point. Luckily, we have websites that do all the work for pool administrators.

Already we've seen spectacular saves, coast-to-coast rushes, and a beauty from my man – the Big Z, Zdeno Chara, going top shelf from an impossible angle. Oh, and one mind-boggling "kiss on the neck" by the Nose himself, that other player was never the same that night. All this in the first week!

At the beginning of the season, I saw one old friend get off the Canadiens ship and jump on the newly built bandwagon of the Vegas Golden Knights! Baffling! This guy was the biggest and loudest Habs fan I've known. Everyone thought he was crazy, but I thought "smart guy" to get off a sinking ship.

This is when the men grow their beards and disappear from all family responsibilities for the time his team is still fighting and moving on. There will be cheering on the goals and wins,

This is when the men grow their beards and disappear from all family responsibilities for the time his team is still fighting and moving on

arguing with the ref thinking he can hear you, moodiness when it doesn't go our way. We'll see some wear the same clothes on game day, perhaps eating the same meals as well. Sadly, there must be those real die-hard fans who don't change their underwear because they think flies are lucky.

The wives must be happy as the men are always home to "watch" the kids every night, making free time for them to visit friends and family.

By the time this is in the newsstands, most of the teams will have moved on to the next round while others are sent home packing. Vegas has already swept their first-round opponents. I'm hoping and praying my team is one of those moving forward. Those pesky Leafs just don't want to wilt away like they're expected to.

This year we see the hard-hitting Western Conference teams killing each other out there. While there is still some hitting in the East, it is less punishing and skill-wise, more entertaining. Filip Forsberg of the Predators could argue that with his two inside-outside goals that just completely undressed the defence but I'm still giving Chara the best goal of the first round.

We can say the playoffs are boring without the Habs fans or we can say it's nice and quiet. You decide. I have had the joy of having my sister, a Hab fan for reasons unknown, come watch the Bruins and Leafs in Game 3. She sat there talking on her phone, telling me stories, cheering for the wrong team when they scored. You know that character in cartoons whose head explodes and his face is red? That was me on the inside while I put on a brave smile and nodded to her stories. Sorry sis, nobody's home next game.

So... predictions? I'll admit that at the beginning of the season I didn't see the Bruins going far, hopefully making it to the playoffs was good enough for a "rebuild year". But today, I'm picking Boston in the East and the Nashville Predators in the West. But you can't ignore the fact that the Pens and Golden Knights are just as hungry. The Pens because they're on a mission to three-peat and the Vegas team because they want their biggest fan, Big John, to finally win one after so many heartbreaking years in Montreal.



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Under the Northern Sky

Souls left in darkness

by Xavier Kataquapit



don't understand what is happening in the world these days. For example, I thought things were getting better between First Nation people and non-Natives in this country. There has been so much bad history involving violence, residential schools, and hundreds of years of colonization. It seemed that under a federal Liberal government and with the new sensitivity in our developing civilization that life was getting better for my people.

To realize that a young Native man by the name of Colten Boushie was shot in the head by Gerald Stanley, a Saskatchewan farmer who claims he believed he was being robbed, is inexcusable. The fact that Stanley only received a \$3,000 fine and a ban on owning a firearm for 10 years has outraged Native people across Canada. Yes, there are a lot of problems with the entire story, but the fact is you just don't shoot to kill people and then try to call it an accident. We pride ourselves as having better gun laws and more sanity when it comes to that issue in Canada, but in a lot of ways we don't. Here is one example when one gun was used too freely to solve a problem.

A quote by Victor Hugo, the great French author who wrote Les Miserables, touched me a long time ago: "If the soul is left in darkness, sins will be committed, the guilty one is not he who commits the sin, but he who causes the darkness."

Our prisons in Canada are full of First Nation and other minority peoples who have had terrible lives and have been raised in situations full of poverty, violence and addiction. The same is true south of the border and in many other countries. When we keep people down and we don't provide them with equal opportunities, how do we expect that they won't turn to crime and addictions?

I thought we were making headway in this area, but no longer. The same is true of how we treat people in other countries. When we aligned ourselves with countries and governments that are controlled by big oil, we ended up bombing the Middle East for decades. We have killed thousands upon thousands of people with all kinds of propaganda created to make them look evil, so that we can grab their oil. Then we wonder why many of them want to flee the countries we have bombed into the Stone Age and have become refugees with the hope of coming to one of our countries that are relatively safer.

We are living in evil times. Our own governments and people who run them are going along with this stuff. How are we ever going to end up with a world where people have good lives, access to clean water, enough food and decent

You would think that maybe in 2018, we would be trying to develop a better life on this planet for everyone

housing? It all boils down to the fact that the greedy wealthy few who control most of the wealth of this world don't care about anything else other than in making more money. Most of the wars in history have been based on people's desires for more money and power. The common man and woman have been used to fight these wars under all kinds of pretences.

I understand that our global history has mostly to do with war. However, you would think that maybe in 2018, we would be trying to develop a better life on this planet for everyone. What is wrong with hitting the pause button, stopping for a minute and asking that question?

Are we going to just keep following the money guys down this evil trail of violence and destruction because a handful of people make a big profit out of it all? Why don't we think about these things more? Are we too caught up in our own lives? It is too scary to think about? Do we think that as long as our bellies are full, we have clean water to drink and we have nice houses to live in that things will always be okay for us? I don't think our future generations can count on that because if we do nothing to lobby our governments and convince them that we don't want to live in a world full of war, it could very well be through accident or intention that our civilization on this planet will cease to exist under the threat of global nuclear war.

I think Victor Hugo had a great insight and I hope that we can find a way to follow his philosophy.



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